

GUSTAFSON
Appl. No. 09/957,457
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (previously presented) An electricity distribution system, comprising:
 - a number of producers and a number of consumers, each consumer receiving electrical power from a common electrical network connecting the producers with the consumers;
 - a first trading system for trading electricity contracts corresponding to electricity to be distributed on said electricity distribution system;
 - a price information dissemination unit, connected to said first trading system, for distributing price information corresponding to prices for the electricity contracts traded in the trading system;
 - means for connecting each consumer with said price dissemination unit to enable each consumer to receive said price information; and
 - means for enabling each consumer to vary the consumer's electricity consumption based on the received price information.
12. (previously presented) A system according to claim 11, further comprising means for settlement in response to the price information received from the trading system.
13. (previously presented) A system according to claim 11 wherein the first trading system is a balancing market of the electricity system, and wherein the price information is based on a real time price determined within the balancing market.
14. (previously presented) A system according to claim 11 wherein the first trading system is an exchange for trading electricity within the electricity system, and wherein the price information is based on a spot market price determined within the exchange.
15. (previously presented) A system according to claim 11, further comprising a second trading system for trading electricity contracts in the electricity system connected to the price

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information dissemination unit, wherein the price information is further based on prices for the contracts traded in the second trading system.

16. (currently amended) A price information dissemination unit for disseminating electricity price information to a number of consumers of electricity connected to an electricity network, the unit comprising:

means, connected to a first trading system used for trading electricity contracts corresponding to electricity to be distributed on said electricity network, for receiving price information relating to prices at which electricity contracts are traded at the trading system,

means for forming a price information message corresponding to the received prices, and

means for transmitting the message to the consumers to enable each consumer to vary the consumer's electricity consumption based on the transmitted price information.

17. (previously presented) A price information dissemination unit according to claim 16, wherein the first trading system is a balancing market and the price information corresponds to a real time price determined within the balancing market.

18. (previously presented) A price information dissemination unit according to claim 16, wherein the first trading system is an exchange for trading electricity within the electricity system, and wherein the price information corresponds to a spot market price determined within the exchange.

19. (previously presented) A price information dissemination unit according to claim 16, further comprising:

means connected to a second trading system used for trading electricity contracts corresponding to electricity to be distributed on said electricity network for receiving prices at which contracts are traded at the second trading system.

20. (currently amended) A method of settlement for use in an electricity distribution system comprising a number of producers and a number of consumers, each consumer receiving electrical power from an electrical network connecting the producers with the consumers, the method comprising the steps of:

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receiving from a first trading system for trading electricity contracts corresponding to electricity to be distributed on said electricity distribution system price information relating to the electricity contracts traded,

forming a price information message corresponding to the received price information,

transmitting the price information message to the consumers to enable each consumer to receive price information corresponding to the prices from the trading system and to vary the consumer's electricity consumption based on the received price information, and

performing settlement based on the price information and on a response from the consumer to the price information.

21. (currently amended) An electricity distribution system, comprising:

a number of producers and a number of consumers, each consumer receiving electrical power from an electrical network connecting the producers with the consumers;

a first trading system for trading electricity contracts corresponding to electricity to be distributed on said electricity distribution system;

a price information dissemination unit, connected to said first trading system, for receiving prices related to traded electricity contracts, generating price information corresponding to the received prices, and distributing the price information;

a communication system for connecting each consumer with said price dissemination unit and enabling each consumer to receive said price information and to vary the consumer's electricity consumption based on the received price information; and

control equipment, connected to the communication system, for enabling each consumer to vary the consumer's electricity consumption depending on the received price information.

22. (previously presented) A system according to claim 21, wherein the first trading system is a balancing market of the electricity system, and wherein the price information corresponds to a real time price determined within the balancing market.

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23. (previously presented) A system according to claim 21, wherein the first trading system is an exchange for trading electricity within the electricity system, wherein the price information corresponds to a spot market price determined within the exchange.

24. (previously presented) A system according to claim 21, further comprising:

 a second trading system for trading electricity contracts in the electricity system connected to the price information dissemination unit, and wherein the price information corresponds to prices for the contracts traded in the second trading system.

25. (currently amended) A method for disseminating electricity price information to a number of consumers of electricity connected to an electricity network, comprising:

 receiving price information relating to prices at which electricity contracts corresponding to electricity to be distributed on the electricity network are traded at a first trading system,

 forming a price information message corresponding to the received prices, and

 transmitting the message to the consumers to enable each consumer to vary the consumer's electricity consumption based on the received price information.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the first trading system is a balancing market and the price information corresponds to a real time price determined within the balancing market.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the first trading system is an exchange for trading electricity within the electricity system, and wherein the price information corresponds to a spot market price determined within the exchange.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:

 receiving prices at which contracts are traded at a second trading system used for trading electricity contracts.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the message is formatted as an XML-message (Extensible Markup Language), a DI message (Electronic Data Interchange), or any other type of an open API (Application Program Interface).